

VIII – Action Checklist

As the parent of an abducted child, you are facing a very difficult situation. The very first thing you should do is enlist the support of family and friends to help you manage and cope with the trying and complex efforts of recovering your child.

This list assumes that your child has been or is suspected to have been abducted abroad, to a country that is not a party to the Hague Convention. If the country in question is a signatory country to the Convention, one of your first steps should be to contact the provincial/territorial central authority. If you are unsure, contact the central authority for your province or territory, the federal central authority, or the Consular Operations and Emergency Services Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs. (Addresses are given in Section VI.)

A. Emergency Action - What to do Right Away

- ✓ Contact your local police and file a missing person report.
- ✓ Contact the Consular Operations and Emergency Services Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. Advise them of the circumstances and request that a search be initiated to find your child and determine his or her welfare.
- ✓ Advise the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Missing Children's Registry in Ottawa.
- ✓ If you do not have a judicial custody order or one that prohibits your child from travelling without your permission, contact a Canadian lawyer. Such an order can be obtained even after a child is abducted and, while not essential under Canadian law, will be valuable in dealing with foreign authorities.
- ✓ Contact the Passport Office (or Consular Operations and Emergency Services Division) to see if a passport was issued for your child and, if not already done, have your child's name entered into the Passport Control List.
- ✓ If you have joint credit cards or banking facilities, establish your liability and take appropriate action.
- ✓ If your child is a dual national, inform the resident embassy/consulate of that country in Canada of what has happened and find out if a passport was issued to your child or if the child was included in the parent's passport. The Consular Operations and Emergency Services Division can do this if you so request.
- ✓ If your child has only Canadian citizenship but the other parent has close ties to a particular country, inform the resident embassy/consulate of that country in Canada what has happened and inquire whether or not a visa was issued for your child. Again, the Consular Operations and Emergency Services Division can do this if you so request.